

New Iberia, Dec. 24th 1863

Dear Mother,

I rec'd y two letters for Harrison about a week ago from you, he started for home two days before I rec'd them, I did not answer them because there was no mail to leave here till to day. I staying here at head quarters yet Jimmy has been to N. O. about a week with the Dr. and got back yesterday, he was agoing to start from there in a day or two, he is going up the river by the way of *Cario*.*

I am glad he is has gone although it is quite lonesome for us here now but that don't trouble me any. I have got used to being lonesome *along* time ago, I would like to go myself, but it's no use of taking, I shall have to stay "three years or during the war," there is to be an exchange of prisoners here tomorrow at 8 o'clock, there was four hundred came up from New Orleans yesterday and the rebs are agoing bring a like number of ours from Texas, there is a man to be shot here the 28th of this month, he belongs to Co. C of our Regt., his name is Charles Turner, he deserted at Port Hudson where we first went there and he [CO] left the regt. in the fight at camp Besland, he is a worthless good for nothing rascal, he is not fit to live.

There is not any news here worth awriting, we probably will not stay here a great while longer for we have stripped the country of almost every thing, forage is getting pretty scarce, the trains have to go a ~~long~~ ~~good~~ number of miles for it, I don't know what the citizens will do when we leave here for there will be nothing left for them to live on, I don't care for that.

I wanted to send a letter by Harrison but I did not have time to write one that morning he started for we were moving the Head Quarters and I have considered to do, he can tell you all that you will want to know which would be a great deal better than I could write it.

Well, I must stop writing for it is most time for the steamboat to come along. You must excuse this miserable writing for I am in a great hurry.

Give my love to all.

From your Affect. Son,

J. F. Brand

*Cario - Likely referring to the steamboat, Cairo.